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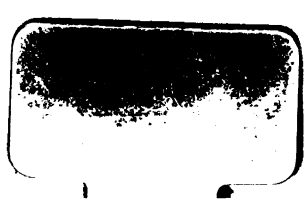
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A Guide to Family Devotion.

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A Guide

TO

FAMILY DEVOTION,

IN A SERIES OF

Supplications, Prayers, and Thanksgivings,

Intended for the Use of

THE GODLY.

LONDON:

W. J. CLEAVER, Baker Street,

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ORDER OF ARRANGEMENT FOR FAMILY WORSHIP.

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And the Lord said unto Abraham in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.—Gen. xii. 3.

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ.—Gal. iii. 16.

And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do for I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.—Gen. xviii. 17-19.

Know ye therefore that they which be of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. —Gal. iii. 7-9.

Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not upon thy name.—Jer. x. 25.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

Morning.

THE WORSHIP TO COMMENCE WITH A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING.

The following has been divided into sections for the convenience of those who may be unable to use the whole at one period; the portion offered should conclude with the Gloria Patri. For the benefit of those who prefer singing to reading, the Psalm has been arranged for chanting.

SECTION I.

IT IS a good thing to give thanks *unto the Lord,*
And to sing praises unto *thy name, O Most High;*
To shew forth thy loving-kindness *in the morning,*
And thy *faithful-ness ev-ery night,*

Upon an instrument of ten strings, and *upon the psaltery,*
Upon the harp *with a so-lemn sound.*
I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy *in the morning:*
For thou hast been my defence and refuge *in the day of my trouble.*

My voice shalt thou hear in the *morning, O Lord;*
In the morning will I direct my prayer unto *thee, and will look up.*
For his anger endureth but a moment; in his *favour is life:*
Weeping may endure for a night, but *joy cometh in the morning:*

For thou art not a God that hath *pleasure in wickedness,*
Neither shall *e-vil dwell with thee.*
The foolish shall not stand *in thy sight:*
Thou hatest all *work-ers of i-niquity.*

The upright shall have dominion over them *in the morning;*

And their beauty shall consume *in-the grave from their dwelling.*
But God will redeem my soul from the *power of the grave;*
For *he sh-all re-ceive me.*

SECTION II.

Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness *in the morning;*
For *in thee do I trust:*
Cause me to know the way wherein *I should walk;*
For I lift *up my soul unto thee.*

I wait for the Lord, my *soul doth wait,*
And in *his word do I hope.*
My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that *watch for the morning;*
I say, more than they *that watch for the morning.*

Let Israel *hope in the Lord;*
For *with the Lord there is mercy,*
And with him is *plenteous re-demption:*

And he shall redeem Israel *from all his ini-quities.*

Thou shalt arise, and have mercy *up-on Zion;*
For the time to favour her, *yea, the set time, is come.*
When the Lord shall *build up Zion,*
He *shall appear in his glory.*

SECTION III.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the *earth be glad:*
Let the sea roar, *and the fulness there-of.*
Let the field be joyful, and all that *is there-in.*
Then shall all the trees of the wood *rejoice be-fore the Lord:*

F-or *he cometh,*
For he *cometh to judge the earth:*
He shall judge the *world with righteous-ness,*
And the *peo-ple with his truth.*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye ever-*last-ing doors;*
And the King of *glo-ry shall come in.*
Who is this *King of glory?*
The Lord of hosts, *he is the King of glory.*

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth *won-drous things.*
And blessed be his *glor-ious name for ever:*
And let the whole earth be filled *with his glory.*
A-*m-en, and a-men,*

Glory be to the Father, *and to-the Son,*
And *to the Ho-ly Ghost:*
As it was in the beginning, is now, *and ever shall be,*
World *with-out end. A-men.*

Prayer and Thanksgiving.

The following form has been arranged in distinct paragraphs, that they may be used either separately or consecutively as time and circumstances may permit.

O MOST worthy and Eternal Lord God, we give all glory, honour, and power unto thee, who hast created all things according to thy good pleasure, and sustainest them in hope of a speedy deliverance from their present bondage under corruption.

Thou hast especially made man for thy glory, and hast redeemed him in Jesus Christ, and made him a partaker of the Divine nature, that he might escape from all the evil of this present time. We pray thee to inspire us with continual

love unto thee, that hereby we may constrain every member of our bodies, to serve our spirits joined in communion with thee, so that we may be rightly enabled to glorify thee our God in our whole being, which thou hast purchased with no less a price than the most precious bloodshedding of Jesus Christ thy well-beloved Son. We praise and magnify thy Holy name, for all thy mercies and blessings vouchsafed unto us as a family and household of thy people, especially for thy protection granted unto us during the past night; for thou hast graciously warded off from us all those evils which we most righteously have deserved, and hast brought upon us undeserved good and blessing. Wherefore we ascribe salvation to thee who sittest upon the throne and to the Lamb for ever, who hath redeemed us by his blood, and brought us near unto thee, to enjoy thy peace and favour, and the lifting up of the light of thy countenance

upon us.—[*Here any special thanksgiving may be added.*]

O most merciful and faithful Father, as it hath pleased thee to preserve us in peace and safety, notwithstanding the weaknesses and infirmities of our fallen nature, during the watches of the night, and to raise us up in health and strength, to behold and to enjoy the light of another day of the grace of the Son of man, so may it please thee according to thy promise, to preserve all who sleep in Jesus, in quiet, peaceful, and undisturbed rest, unto the morning of the resurrection, which do thou cause speedily to dawn upon them, and upon us; that they who are in their graves may hear the voice of the Son of man, the sound of the Archangel, and the trump of God; and thus both small and great being aroused from their slumbers, may appear in the flesh clothed upon with a glorious immortality, and that we who remain until the dawning of that day, may have

our vile body changed to meet them, and as the one family of God, gathered together under one head, the Lord Jesus Christ, may as the morning stars, the sons of God, the joint-heirs with Christ, sing and shout aloud thy glorious triumph and praise; ascribing salvation, and glory, and honour, and power unto thee, O Lord God omnipotent, reigning and rejoicing over all thy works, redeemed from their present thraldom and corruption; to flourish in the most blessed liberty of the children of God. O let thy Kingdom come, that as in heaven, so on earth, thy will without let or hindrance may ever be accomplished.

O most Holy and Blessed Father, we desire to shew forth thy loving-kindness morning by morning, as thou gatherest us into thy presence. Do thou be pleased in thy faithfulness to preserve us throughout this day, that as a family and household we may gladly shew forth the same unto thee, evening by evening, in our

worship, adoration, and praise. Vouchsafe to keep us, O Lord, this day from all danger, and from all sin in thought, word, and deed. Preserve us faithful to the vows made to thee in our holy baptism: enable us to resist the temptations of the subtle enemy in every form: deliver us from all unbelief, presumption, and vain-glory: save us from the cares and allurements of this world, that we may live above its frowns and flatteries: strengthen us to resist the working of our deceitful hearts, and fill them with the affections of thine own goodly nature; and grant that we, putting on the Lord Jesus, may make no provision for the flesh to fulfil any of its unlawful desires which war against the soul.

Be thou, most gracious God, our shield of defence to protect us this day, keeping off from us all the fiery darts of the wicked one, both in our going out and coming in. Bless us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls, and grant that

whatsoever our hand findeth to do that is lawful and right, we may do the same with all might, wisdom, and grace.

We beseech thee so to prosper us and give us good success, that we, according to thy word, may be able to provide all things that are honest both in thy sight, and also in the sight of men, and that we may owe no one anything, but to love one another.

Deliver us from all neglect and contempt of thy word and ordinances, that we may indeed be as thy sheep obeying thy voice, and following thee whithersoever it may please thee to lead us. Let no rashness or impatience, no impetuosity or slothfulness, be found in us to vex or grieve thy Holy Spirit.

And now, heavenly Father, we beseech thee to bless us, and enable us with heart and voice to serve thee with joyfulness and gladness of soul, for thy manifold and great mercies, for thine unspeakable grace and blessing, given unto us through

Jesus Christ our Lord: and grant that at all times we may serve thee with reverence and godly fear, knowing that thou art God in heaven above, and that we are but thy creatures upon the earth, existing only by thy mercy and goodness, and waiting upon thee for the accomplishment of all our hopes, at the appearing and in the kingdom of thy dear Son.

We pray thee for the same blessings on behalf of our relations, kinsfolk, and friends [*Here any special prayer may be made*] that they with us may finally attain thy kingdom and glory.

Hear and accept, O God, we beseech thee, these our morning devotions, in the name and through the merits and for the glory of thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Response. Amen.

BENEDICTION.

GOD ALMIGHTY, who strengthened the spirits of faithful Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob, to bless and command their households after them; now bless, keep, and defend you (*us*) from all visible and invisible enemies; guide and direct you (*us*) in all things, and hear the prayers of his Church on your (*our*) behalf, that you (*we*) this day may not fall into any sin, neither run into any kind of danger.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the God of all the families of the earth, now rest upon you (*us*).

Response. Amen.

Evening.

CONFESSION.



GOD, the Father of an Infinite Majesty and of unspeakable mercy, who hast compassion upon all men, and especially upon the penitent who humble themselves before thee, we beseech thee of thy great goodness to have mercy upon us as a family of thy people. Pardon, and pass by our manifold sins, iniquities, and transgressions, and through the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, applied to our hearts and consciences by the effectual inworking of the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, wash and cleanse them all away, and thereby also remit unto us the punishment due to the same, that we may be found an acceptable family in thy sight. Grant

unto us thy heavenly peace, comfort, and protection; and as it did please thee in old time to preserve and shield the families of Israel after the flesh, when they observed thine ordinance in sprinkling the corruptible blood of a lamb upon the lintel and door-posts of their dwellings: so may it please thee to preserve and protect us, by that which is far more precious, even the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, thy spotless Lamb, provided for us by thee in thy perfect love, so that we may not be invaded by that cruel enemy and wicked destroyer, who continually cometh up against us in wrath and subtlety, seeking whom he may devour. Do thou, therefore, O God of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, who watchest over thy people as a shepherd doth a flock, keep us from all his illusions, assaults, and temptations. Preserve us this night, both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls, from all bodily and spiritual enemies, evils,

and calamities. Accomplish in us all thy thoughts of peace, of goodness, and of blessing. Fulfil all thy promises made to the families of the earth in the seed of Abraham, and make us partakers of the same in Christ Jesus our Lord: and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may be raised up in the morning in renewed health and vigour, being refreshed by thine ordinance of sleep; and also that we may be filled with gratitude and praise to thee for thy great goodness towards us in the land of the living; that we may cheerfully offer unto thee thy acceptable sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and declare thy work of salvation with joyfulness and gladness of heart. Hear us, O Lord our God, thou Most High possessor of heaven and earth, for his sake who loved us, and gave himself for us, and who hath promised to be our Advocate towards thy Divine Majesty, to present on our behalf all our supplications and prayers unto

thee, that we may receive thine eternal blessing, and live before thee in thy glorious kingdom, world without end.

Response. Amen.

BENEDICTION.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of the faithful, who in old time commandedst the head of every household in Israel, to sprinkle the blood of a lamb upon the lintel and door-post of their dwellings, in order to insure their safety and protection from the destroying angel, now grant unto you (*us*) his unspeakable blessing, in the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour, whom he hath raised from the dead, to bless and defend the families of the earth, who worship him, and who call upon his name. Let his blood rest upon you (*us*) for good this night, and preserve you (*us*) during the watches thereof in peace, from all the malice of

the devil; that you *(we)* may rise up in the morning with renewed health and strength, to devote yourselves *(ourselves)* to his service, unto the praise and glory of his holy name. The peace of God the Father rest upon you *(us)* through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Response. Amen.

Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In the arrangement which has been adopted, the different condition of families has been contemplated — a series of forms having been prepared, to meet the different circumstances of households; these may be used in succession, or selections can be made, always remembering the right order of evening worship; to commence with Confession, and conclude with the Benediction.



LORD, open thou our lips:
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A portion of the Holy Scriptures shall be read, followed by one of these sentences.—

We praise thee, O Lord, for that which thou hast caused to be written for our learning.

OR,

Grant, we beseech thee, O God, that we, through patience and comfort of this thy Scripture, may have hope according to the example of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response. Amen.

After which a Psalm of Praise, the 8th, 23rd, or 63rd.

O Almighty and Everlasting Father, who, according to thy will, reignest God alone, ruling over all the armies

of heaven, and controlling all the inhabitants of the earth, making the very wrath of men and devils to redound to the praise and glory of thy name, and to the furtherance of thine eternal purpose, in preparing the way for the return of thy Son Jesus Christ, whom thou hast placed at thy right hand, until thou hast made his enemies thy footstool. We do now, O most Holy and Blessed Father, bow down unto him, and with our hearts and lips do acknowledge him to be the Lord over all visible and invisible creation, to the praise and glory of thy great and fearful name.

We pray thee to bless, strengthen, and provide for us, thou God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, and of all the just who live in thy sight. We look to thee to help us, thou hope and confidence of all our fathers, and of all who delight to put their trust in thy mercy and faithfulness.

And grant, O most gracious Father,

that we being covered and protected by the sprinkling of the most precious blood of thy dear Son, may abide safely in the flesh, and be permitted to behold with joy the light of another day, to the praise and glory of thy wonderful and blessed name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Response. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Response. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION.

GOD, the Father Almighty, who hath raised up his Son Jesus Christ from the

dead, that in him all the families of the earth might be blessed, bless, keep, and protect you (*us*), a family of his people, now gathered before him. The blessing of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, rest upon you (*us*) and enrich you (*us*) with his peace and joy.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you (*us*) now and for evermore.

Response. Amen.

II.

O THOU that art glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises, how great are thy signs, how mighty are thy wonders, both in heaven above and in the earth beneath: who hast raised up thy Son Jesus Christ in our nature from the depths of the earth to the height of thy divine and glorious majesty, constituting him as man the fountain head of a new life, the author of blessing, the King of Glory, and the head over all things to his

body the Church; we pray thee as the members of his mystical body, that we may be able with all saints fully to comprehend the breadth and the length, the depth and the height, of thy love to man, in him whom thou hast placed over the works of thy hands.

We do especially, as a Christian family, magnify and exalt thy name, as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our God and Father in him.

O most merciful God, hear and answer us for his sake, who hath promised not only to be in the midst of those who are gathered in his name before thee, but also to be our Mediator and Advocate towards thy Divine Majesty.

Gather and protect us under the wings of thy defences. We pray thee to visit this habitation where our lot is cast with thy blessing and mercy. Let thy holy angels, whom thou sendest forth as thy ministering spirits to them who shall be the heirs of salvation, encamp

around our dwelling, and defend it continually.

Hear these our supplications and prayers, O most merciful Father, and let them come up with acceptance before thee, who sittest upon the Throne of power, and grace, and of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who ever liveth before thee as our Redeemer, presenting his own most worthy sacrifice, as the spotless Lamb, slain for us before the foundation of the world, and who in the fulness of time became incarnate, to shew forth thy love to man, in the death and resurrection of his nature, and in its glorious ascension to thy right hand, to enjoy the same life and glory, which as thy well-beloved Son he had with thee before the world began. And to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, we desire to ascribe all glory, both now and for evermore.

Response. Amen.

III.

O THOU infinite and incomprehensible God, we worship thee, and call upon thy wonderful and most blessed name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, thou God of the spirits of all flesh; we glorify thee our Creator, in whose hand our breath is, and to whom we are indebted for life and being; we draw near unto thee in the name of Jesus Christ, and beseech thee to bless this household (and all who worship with us) with the blessing wherewith thou blessedst thy people; giving to us all the healthful spirit of thy grace, that we may always rightly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, that, according to the several conditions in which it hath pleased thee to place us, we may serve thee faithfully, and with a single eye to thy glory, who art no respecter of persons; that in the day of the glorious appearing and kingdom of thy dear Son, we may each receive from him the reward of the

inheritance, the testament of which he hath bequeathed unto us in his own most precious blood, shed for the remission of our sins.

We do call upon our souls to bless thee, O Lord, and all that is within us to magnify thy holy name, O thou Creator and Preserver of mankind, who upholdest us and all things by the word of thy power. We praise thee, O Lord, for thy great goodness in redeeming us from the hand of our cruel enemy, and for all thy wonderful works towards us, in crowning us with thy loving-kindnesses, and with thy tender mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord. Hear us, heavenly Father, for his sake, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and glory, majesty and praise, dominion and power, both now and for ever, world without end.

Response. Amen.

IV.

O THOU who bearest the name of Father, and art unto thy children in the fulness thereof, all which that name expresseth; grant to thy servant whom thou hast set over this family as its head, thy holy and true spirit of Fatherhood towards those whom thou hast given unto him; and that he may exercise the same in all charity, wisdom and discipline.

Enable him to shield, counsel, comfort, and sustain his wife, thine handmaid before thee, and do thou maintain her in her true place, as a helpmeet to thy servant, and as a channel of blessing to this household.

O God, bless the children whom thou hast graciously given to thy servant, and cause them to grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord Jesus. Grant unto them health of body and peace of mind. Give unto each of them a good understanding according to thy

word: and so incline them to yield to the motions of thy Holy Spirit within them, that they may be rightly disposed in all things, and may be led thereby into the way everlasting.

We pray thee, Holy Father, to sanctify wholly, in body, soul, and spirit, every member of this family and household; all our relations, friends, neighbours, and acquaintances, upon whom resteth thy holy name, and who are called with us, as thy baptized, unto the same hope of salvation. Grant that they with us may walk worthy of this our high and holy calling, that we may not apostatize therefrom, but seeking of thee continually by prayer and supplication the supply of the Spirit of thy Son in the renewing of the Holy Ghost, may make progress in spiritual life; so that, according to thy will, Christ may be formed in our hearts the hope of glory; and that thus, by thy mercy, and our willing obedience, we may be preserved blameless, and finally

attain to thy heavenly kingdom and glory.

Response. Amen.

v.

O MOST blessed and glorious Lord God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to let our requests be made known unto thee; we come unto thee at this time, that it would please thee of thy great mercy to hear the voice of our supplications, and to let our cry come before thee. [*Here may be offered any special supplication.*]

All our wants and desires we bring unto thee, beseeching thee to grant unto us all necessary spiritual blessings during this the time of our pilgrimage, which, O God, do thou speedily terminate, and bring us to thine eternal rest: and to this end do thou accomplish the number of those who shall compose the mystical

body of thy dear Son, and bring in thy kingdom and glory.

We do earnestly and devoutly pray to thee, in full assurance of faith, to grant us the knowledge of thy mind, and the discernment of thy will, that the eyes of our understanding being opened we may behold the light of thy truth, and thereby be sanctified, and separated to thy holy service in the various stations of this life in which it hath pleased thee to place each one of thy members. [*Here add any special prayer.*]

And to these and all our supplications and prayers, made at any time before thee, we desire to add our most ready and joyful thanks for all thy mercies and blessings vouchsafed to us, a family and household of thy people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Especially we render our hearty thanks to thee for health and strength; for food, raiment, and for habitation; for thy merciful care of us in this life, as well as for the promise and

hope of glory in that which is to come. [*And for safely bringing us to the close of another day, and for thy goodness and mercy which thou hast made to follow us throughout the same.*]

And O most gracious Father, who ever beholdest in the face of thine anointed Son Jesus Christ our Lord the atonement made for sinful and unworthy men; grant that we being comforted, strengthened, and refreshed by His most glorious and unspeakable joy, may hereby be enabled to shew forth evermore thy most worthy praise, both with our lips and in our lives; and let thy peace which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the continual knowledge and love of thee our Father, and of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Accept, of thine infinite goodness, this the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who ever standeth in thy presence as our Mediator and Intercessor, bearing

up upon his heart and kindly affections all his people who come to thee through him, that they may be saved to the uttermost, and be delivered from all their fears; that thus, standing fast in him, we may not be removed by any temptation from the hope of the Gospel of thy glory, yet to be revealed, according to thine oath and promise, before the face of all flesh.

And now, O God, Most High, we close this our evening devotion, adoration, and praise, saying, Our Father, &c.

Response. Amen.

VI.

O LORD God of life and glory, we come before thee, trusting in him who hath for ever offered his spotless body on the cross, as the one perfect sacrifice for our sins, to which nothing can be added, and from which nothing can be taken to deprive it of its efficacy before thee on our behalf. We do therefore bow down before thee, O thou Most High God, in

full assurance of faith in thy forgiveness, through the atonement made for us by thy well-beloved Son: for thou wast in him reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto us our trespasses: and thou hast blotted out our sins for thy name's sake, by his most precious blood-shedding: we therefore pray thee that we, accepting aright this thy grace to us in him, may now be reconciled unto thee, in thought, in word, and in deed, following him whom thou hast given unto us, constituting him in thy wisdom, not only as our accepted sacrifice, but also as our good example, vigilant Shepherd, and faithful Overseer and Guide, shewing unto man in his manhood what is good, and what thou the Lord requirest of us; even to do justly, to love mercy, and to humble ourselves to walk with thee our God, that thus we may receive the reward of thine incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading inheritance, which he hath purchased for us.

O thou Root and Offspring of Jesse, thou bright and Morning Star, who art risen into power and glory, and unto whom is committed by thy Father all power in heaven and earth, that thou mightest come and rule over the nations; we, a part of the first fruits of the families of the earth, do now put our whole trust in thee, that abiding in thee we may, through the power of the Holy Ghost, be filled with all joy and peace and hope, and abound in the same to the glory of our God and Father through thee. O that we may partake more and more of thy fulness, that thy love may be made manifest in our mortal flesh; and that in thee, through all thy ordinances and means of grace, we may be presented perfect in body, soul, and spirit, according to thy will, which is our sanctification. O God the Father of heaven, we beseech thee to take of thy Spirit that resteth on thy Son, and put the same upon us, that each one, according to his place and

measure in his body the Church, may serve thee faithfully and effectually, in all wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, godliness, and in the fulness of thy wholesome and healthful fear; that thus, striving lawfully, we may fight the good fight, and finish our course with joy, laying hold of eternal life, and at the end of time we may hear thy voice of welcome from the lips of our Lord Jesus Christ giving us an abundant entrance into thine everlasting kingdom.

Hear us, O thou one living and true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, of co-eternal Majesty and co-equal glory, world without end.

Response. Amen.

SECOND SERIES OF

Evening Prayers,

OF A MORE ENLARGED AND MEDITATIVE FORM.

I.—FOR WISDOM.



THOU most wise and just God, in wisdom hast thou made and fashioned all things. Thou layest up sound wisdom for the righteous, and hast abounded to us in the same, through Jesus Christ. Thou givest liberally of its treasures unto all who come to thee in his name, and upbraidest none. Thou knowest how foolish and ignorant we are before thee; have mercy upon us, who now feel our need of the heavenly and blessed wisdom of thy Just One, who ever liveth before

thee, as the incarnation and personification of the same, whom also thou didst possess in the beginning of thy way before thy works of old, and who from the beginning came forth from time to time to express the hidden light of thy wisdom. O that we may rejoice in him who rejoiceth in hope to possess the habitable parts of thine earth! Send forth thine excellent spirit of wisdom which resteth upon him to inhabit us his members, that we may delight ourselves in him who delighteth to dwell with the sons of men, that we may keep and walk in his pleasant ways, and be preserved in his peaceful paths, receiving from his right hand eternal life, and from his left the riches of his grace and kindness, and finally attain to the fellowship of his honour, when he cometh to raise up and to reward his servants who have served him in his humiliation and holiness.

O grant to us, heavenly Father, this wisdom in our inward parts, in all purity,

peace, and gentleness, that we may apply our hearts to the same and abound in good works, and fight against all that wisdom which is earthly, sensual, and devilish, which cometh up continually against us, through the craft and subtlety of the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, to lead us astray from thee. We do ask thee in faith, and singleness of mind, that in the exercise of this thy divine wisdom we may use all knowledge and power aright, that in the strength thereof we may meditate in our hearts upon thee, and upon thy word, day and night, so that our mouths may bring forth the fruit of the same, to guide and order all our affairs with discretion, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, shewing out of a good conversation our works with meekness of wisdom, to the glory of thy name, and for the blessing of all with whom we have to do. Worthy art thou, O Lamb of God, to receive and to bestow

all wisdom: from thee it cometh, and to thee it returneth, that thou alone mayest be glorified, both now and evermore.

Response. Amen.

II.—FOR UNDERSTANDING.

O THOU great and everlasting God and Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who knowest no change or decay, no faintness or weariness; whose understanding is unsearchable and infinite: by it hast thou stretched out the heavens, and arranged all their hosts, which move and shine in their courses above our heads. Thou tellest the number of the stars, and callest them all by their names. Thou understandest all things that exist before thee: all the thoughts and actions of thy creatures both near and afar off, and art thoroughly acquainted with all our ways. Thou knowest how we have walked in times past in the vanity of our minds, having by nature our understanding darkened,

and thus rendered unfit and unable of ourselves to learn the truth as it is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Have thou mercy upon us, for there is no understanding in us of ourselves to help us to receive and hold fast the word of life committed unto us. It hath become brutish by reason of our sins, and by the continual quenching of thy Holy Spirit. But there is hope and help in thee, and we beseech thee therefore, O Almighty God, to cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy free Spirit, and give us understanding according to thy holy word, so that that which we have received into our hearts may not be taken away by the enemy, or perish through lack of the same. And do thou, O thou unchangeable Lord Jesus, grant to us spiritual understanding in all things. Thou who in the days of thy flesh hadst compassion upon thy disciples when thou sawest them without understanding, so that they neither un-

derstood the Scriptures of truth nor thy word addressed unto them, and didst therefore with thy mouth breathe upon them with thy free Spirit, out of which cometh understanding, filling their hearts with the fire of thy love, to the end that they might understand thy word, and that which is contained in the volume of thy book; grant to us the same grace, that we err not in judgment before thee.

We pray thee to deliver us from all the natural efforts and strivings of our minds and understandings unaided by thy good Spirit, and especially from that false light which cometh from the sparks of our own kindling, and which only leadeth us astray, and causeth us to lie down in confusion and sorrow. Turn us, O heavenly Father, from this vanity and vexation, and by the power of thy Holy Spirit bend back all the affections of our hearts unto thee, and to thy Son Jesus Christ, that our souls may be comforted with thy consolation, being

knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of spiritual understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God manifest in flesh, and of thee our Father, and of Christ our Lord and Saviour, unto whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all praise and worship given, both now and for evermore.

Response. Amen.

III.—FOR COUNSEL.

O THOU, immutable Lord God of Hosts, Father of lights, who art great, wonderful, and excellent in counsel, and mighty in thy works; when thou utterest thy voice there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; from the ends of the earth thou causest the vapours of storms to arise; thou thunderest marvellously with thy voice; thou shootest forth thy lightnings upon the earth: by thy breath thou congealest the waters with thy frost, and by it thou meltest them again, causing them to flow forth in their

courses: Thou bringest the winds out of thy treasures: by thy watering thou weariest and lightenest thy thick and dark clouds, turning them round about with thy counsels, causing them to come that they may do whatsoever thou commandest them upon the face of the world in the earth, whether for correction or for mercy to thy land. Who hath at any time directed thy Spirit, or being thy counsellor hath taught thee? With whom tookest thou counsel, or who hath given to thee understanding? for all judgment, knowledge, and understanding, are of thee, and we can only manifest what thou givest unto us, from whom alone proceedeth every good and perfect gift; and thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men, to give to every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Behold, O God, we wait upon thee and keep silence, and desire to be guided by thee in all things during our passage through the tedious

and weary wilderness of this world. Give therefore unto us, we beseech thee, counsel and strength to war the good warfare, that we may withstand all the wiles of the wicked one, and resist all his evil suggestions, and we will bless thy holy name for this thy mercy and grace. Preserve us, O God, that we may not hide or quench or darken thy counsel by our own foolish and unmeaning words, but that now consenting to be led by the same, we may hereafter attain the glory of thine inheritance prepared for those who love thee from the foundation of the world.

Deliver us from our sins, and the sins of our fathers, who provoked thee by their crafty counsels, forsaking and contemning that which thou gavest unto them for their sure guidance and conduct, and so provoking thee to anger with their inventions.

O thou King and Governor of all the earth, thou workest all things after the

counsel of thine own will, shewing forth its immutability, by interposing thyself as an oath, to the end that we as the heirs of promise might have a strong consolation, and wait in sure and certain hope upon thee for the accomplishment of thy purpose by Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who art called the Wonderful Counsellor, make us, we pray thee, partakers of thy Holy Spirit of counsel that resteth upon thee in its fulness; that receiving of the same, we may be able to counsel and advise in thy faith and fear all with whom we have to do: and give thou unto us grace to discern and receive the same from all those whom thou hast set in this office; yea, raise thou up to us, and to thy whole Church, our counsellors as at the beginning, who shall be endued with this grace from thee, that thy great name may be glorified, and that thy people may be guided in peace and safety, even unto the end.

And grant, O most merciful Father, that no false or wicked counsel may arise in our hearts, savouring of the things of men who stand apart from thy purpose, to lead us astray from thee. Let no error of mind or judgment, no secretly indulged fault, failing or infirmity, find a place in our hearts, to whisper to our feelings or affections, under any form of godliness, a thought or desire contrary to the counsel of thy determinate will.

Pardon thy servants, whensoever we have sought to turn thee aside from thy work of crucifixion and death, either in ourselves or in others. O God, keep us back from all presumption, and from all familiar dealing with thee.

Suffer no sin to have dominion over us, but preserve us in uprightness and innocency in the life of Jesus Christ, so that taking thy testimonies as our delight and counsellors, which of old are faithfulness and truth, the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts

may be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength, our Counsel, and Redeemer. Hear and answer us, O heavenly Father, that in the day when thy Son appeareth to make manifest the secret counsels of all hearts, we may be found an acceptable family in his sight, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Response. Amen.

IV.—FOR MIGHT.

O GOD our Creator, who not only possessest wisdom and understanding, but art also mighty in thy strength, far above all principalities and powers in heaven and earth, and dost ever exercise the same in subjection to thine unsearchable wisdom and infinite understanding; grant that we thy creatures, receiving of the spirit of might that resteth on our Lord Jesus, may willingly imitate thee in its use, and manifest that we are thy

children herein, and the faithful followers of thy Son.

Thou who sustainest by thy might, and upholdest by the word of thy power, all thy celestial and terrestrial works, look upon us now before thee with an eye of mercy and compassion; for we are naturally weak and infirm, and unable to do any good thing of ourselves: do thou strengthen us with all might according to thy glorious power, that in patience we may possess our souls, and exercise the grace of long suffering with joyfulness.

O Lord our God, thou knowest that we have no might to stand before thee, and the strongest of the sons of the mighty and the renowned are as nothing in thy presence. Thou touchest the mountains, and they smoke. Thou lookest upon the hills, and they melt at thy glance. Who can stand before thee, O God, if once thou art angry? Thou takest up the nations as water in the

hollow of thine hand, and scatterest them abroad upon the face of the earth: Thou takest away their breath, and they perish and become as nothing, yea, less than nothing, and vanity.

We thine unworthy creatures do desire to renounce and abandon all confidence in the flesh, which is as a broken reed and as a deceitful bow before thee: all its growth is as the grass that withereth: all its glory is as the flower of the field, that passeth away, and is no more seen: therefore we pray thee that thy strength may be perfected in our weakness, that the glory of our power may be seen to be of thee and not of us. Become thou our strength and our song, even as thou art our salvation, that each one of us abiding in the unity of the temple of thy body, may be enabled to declare the praise of thy power put forth in delivering us from the fear of all our enemies, the devil, the world, and the flesh.

In all time of our trouble, affliction,

and temptation, be thou our refuge and fortress, wherein we may rest secure, and lie down in peace and safety, being protected by thee.

We a family of the Gentiles do pray thee to put far from us all lies, vanities, and profitless things, which we have inherited from our fathers and forefathers. All created persons or things that we have substituted for thee, as the God of our strength and confidence, we do forsake, and utterly abhor. We do now humble ourselves before thee, and bewail all our past follies and failings, imploring thee, O heavenly Father, that we may know by experience the power of the resurrection of thy dear Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that it may work mightily in us who believe, to the lifting of us up above the power of our spiritual enemies; above all inward fears, outward fightings, oppositions, and deadly works: that we may know also the fellowship of his sufferings, and

be sustained under them, being made conformable to his death; that he may live in our mortal bodies, and that we may give ourselves to him, as he gave himself for us.

O thou our most mighty Redeemer, who hast all power in heaven and in earth, arise and plead thine own cause. Gather together into one by thine own arm all the tribes of thine inheritance. Send forth thy messengers and mighty ones who rejoice in thy highness to prepare thy way before thee, that thy people may be delivered: and as thou hast raised up a mighty salvation in the house of thy servant David, make thou it apparent before the face of all the earth.

We pray thee for all Kings and Queens, Princes and Potentates, Governors and Magistrates upon earth, that they may wisely and duly consider whose power they have entrusted to them; that they may be prepared to give an account to him who is King of kings, and Lord of

lords; that in nothing they may be tempted to provoke thee to jealousy, nor refuse to render to thee the honour and glory due to thy name, lest they perish from the way of life in the day when thou arisest to shake terribly the earth: that they may be joyful in their King in whose name they have been anointed, and bless Him who cometh in the name of Jehovah, to save the poor and the needy who cry unto Him out of their distresses. [*Here any special prayer may be made for the Queen and those in authority, that we may lead a peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*]

Hear us, O Lord God Almighty, that both high and low, rich and poor, small and great, may fear and glorify thy name, for thou alone art holy: just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. Make known thy mighty power and great glory, that all nations may come and worship before Him, to the glory of thee, our God and his God, our Father and his

Father: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, both now and for ever.

Response. Amen.

V.—FOR KNOWLEDGE.

O LORD our Maker and Redeemer, who art a God of knowledge, before thee are unfolded and manifest all the mysteries of creation and of godliness, yea and of all spiritual wickednesses both in heaven above and in the earth beneath. Thou knowest at a glance the secret thoughts and intentions of the human heart, and of all thy creatures, for all things are naked and open unto the eyes of thee with whom we have to do. From the beginning to the end thou knowest perfectly all thy works. Ignorance is not an attribute of thy being: the past thou knewest when it was yet future: the present hath been seen by thee ere it came up before thee, and the future to thee is as the present, for thou fore-

knowest all: who then can hide himself from thee, or think to work against thee in anything? O infinite God and incomprehensible Creator, surely thy knowledge is too wonderful for us thy finite creatures to comprehend. It is indeed very high, far above the reach of all created beings and intelligences. Who, O God, can attain to it? Surely not one in heaven or in earth, for thou hast no equal, neither can any, however great or vast, be compared to thee, from whom all came at the beginning, ever to be sustained in existence by thy watchful presence and protection. Thou reignest God alone. Thou overrulest all, making all things, though fallen from thee, to work out good at the end, in the accomplishment of the thoughts and intents of thine own heart. O that we may receive through Jesus Christ our Lord, upon whom resteth the spirit of knowledge, the knowledge of thy will in all things; that knowing what is acceptable in thy sight,

we may also cheerfully and heartily, by the spirit of thy grace, perform the same, and thus become thy willing servants! O that we may never forsake or refuse the light of the knowledge of thy salvation by the remission of our sins in the blood of Jesus Christ; nor the light of the knowledge of thy glory in his face, the face of thy Holy One, shining into our hearts to win them to thee! O that we may never by our sin and unbelief compel thee to cast us off, and so make thee to constrain us against our wills, thoughts, and inclinations, to be thine unwilling instruments to effect or help forward thy sure and certain purpose! for while thou hast taught us, by the mouth of thy holy Apostle, that we can do nothing against thy truth, yet can we through yielding up ourselves to thee do something for the same, if we be not false or reprobate in thy sight.

Hear the continual prayer of thy Son on our behalf, that we may fully know

thee, and Jesus Christ our Lord whom thou hast sent, and whom to know is eternal life and peace; and that we may know and possess the virtues of his names, as Jesus the Saviour from sin; as the Christ, the baptizer with the Holy Ghost and with fire; as the Lord, in treading down the power of sin and Satan under our feet; so that we may shew forth the praises of Him who hath called us with so high and holy a calling, and walk worthy of the same in all well-pleasing.

Grant, O most merciful Father, that we by thy good Spirit may know the things that are freely given to us of thee, having by thy grace and good will been brought into the blessed condition of fellowship and friendship with thee in Jesus Christ, that we may henceforth manifest our love to thee and realize our happiness in doing all thy will and commandments. O that we may take heed that we deny thee not in our works while thy word is

upon our lips, or in our minds. Graciously give unto us discernment according to thy word, that we may know the difference between the voice and workings of the Spirit of truth, and the depths, devices, and counterfeits of the spirit of error; that abiding in him who is the truth, and submitting to his will and his ways in all that he hath constituted and ordained for our defence and blessing, we may be preserved in peace, and kept without fear or distrust of any kind.

O Lord, our ever-living Redeemer, we are assured that not only the discerning eye, but also the hearing ear, cometh from thee: we pray thee to open the ears of our souls to hear thy voice, that we may know thee as the Good Shepherd who delighteth to exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth; that we may follow thee whithersoever it may please thee to lead us; for thou leadest safely and surely those who

in faith submit themselves to thee, and who count everything as dross when compared with the excellency of thy saving knowledge, O Christ, our Saviour and Mediator. O Lord, thou knowest our foolishness, how prone we are to scatter and divide ourselves abroad, like a flock of sheep, without thy continual oversight and care. Make thou us sensible that we know nothing as we ought to know by reason of the darkness that is in us, that we may come to thee to receive, in whom are hid all the treasures of knowledge. Raise thou up and sustain over us preachers and pastors after thine own heart, empowered by thee to bring and to keep us within the defences of the fold of thy Church, that therein we may be fed by them with knowledge in the spirit of wisdom, understanding, and of love, that we be not puffed up by its possession, neither be tempted to exercise and manifest any zeal for thee without due subjection to

that sound spiritual knowledge which cometh from above.

Enable us, we beseech thee, to sustain all such by our faith, prayers, and obedience, and that we may esteem them very highly for their work's sake wrought by thy grace imparted unto them. [*Here may be added any particular prayer for those who are over us in the Lord.*]

O thou Most High God, who according to thy divine power hast given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Jesus Christ who hath called us to glory and virtue, we pray thee that we may not be unfruitful and barren in the same; that we fall not from our steadfastness in thee into the error of the wicked; but grant to us, of thy great mercy and bounty, that in all things we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Response. Amen.

VI.—FOR GODLINESS.

O THOU Eternal Word, who art God over all blessed for ever, who in the beginning wast with the Father, Light of light, very God of very God, begotten of thy Father before all the worlds, thou camest forth from his bosom to create and reveal his hidden mind and will. O God our Lord, from the beginning, yea from everlasting, thy goings forth have been. In old time thou alone didst declare the Father in voice and in shape, uttering and appearing to men, anticipating thine incarnation in our nature. We worship thee, O thou true Light of Life, who didst veil its glory in flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone, that man might bear thy presence, behold thy love, and taste of the virtues of thy salvation, that in receiving of the same we might be enabled to live soberly, righteously, and godly before thee, who as the man Christ Jesus didst not only fulfil all righteousness towards men, but also

didst live according to the mind and will of God thy Father in all things, that as our Saviour and example thou mightest liberate us fully to serve him in the power of thy godliness, and worship him in thy spirit and in the truth of thy being, in whom we have our lot and portion.

We pray thee, O God, that we who have believed and have been baptized in thy thrice holy name, of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and who have hereby been brought by the one Spirit into the mystical body of thy dear Son, may no more remain as weak, sickly, or unprofitable branches, but by looking unto him as the true Vine, and knowing our root and fatness to be in him, into whom we have been grafted, we may bring forth the fruits of good and godly living in all things to the glory of thy name, who art our Father and heavenly Husbandman, so that at the end we may not be cut out or removed from our place and interest in him. O that we may,

by a lively faith continue to abide in him, that his words may abide in us, that we become not as trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead; but contrariwise yield abundantly to thee the rich and precious fruits of thy Holy Spirit, which shall follow us and be reaped into eternal life.

[*The following may be added on the days of the celebration of the Holy Communion.*]

And, O most gracious God, to the end that our spirits may remain steadfast with thee, and shew forth thy mystery in flesh, and that we may walk fully with thee, as children after thine own heart, and be set apart unto thy holy work and service, do thou evermore give us that bread from heaven of which a man may eat and live for ever before thee. Strengthen us hereby, we pray thee, that we fail not in godliness nor cease in faithfulness, so that at the last we may be numbered with thy called, chosen, and faithful people,

and come with them to attend thee as thy train in the glorious majesty of thy kingdom.

O thou incarnation of eternal Life, thou incorruptible bread in whom our life is hidden and laid up as the pot of manna in the worldly sanctuary of old, we wait in longing expectation for thine appearing, that we may be revealed with thee in glory. Meanwhile do thou, O Father of heaven, feed us with that bread of godliness, that it as a life may be nourished and sustained in us. Look upon him who was slain for us, and who now ever liveth as our abiding sacrifice in thy divine presence; and let thy Holy Spirit which animates his flesh descend and feed us therewith, that he may be as our meat that endureth unto everlasting life, and that we may grow up in his nurture, and be strong in him and in the power of his might to resist and overcome all the wiles of the devil, the enticements, allurements, and vanities of

this world, which are at enmity with thee, and all the ungodly desires of the flesh and of the mind which do so prosper and prevail in this evil and untoward age.

O heavenly Father, grant that we thus overcoming by thy grace all our deadly enemies, may be privileged to draw near and eat of that hidden manna which is laid up before thy glory in the person of the Son of Man, who hath ascended to that place which he occupied with thee before the worlds were.

And, O thou eternal and holy Father, who hath not only constituted him as our incorruptible food, but hast also made him our cup of blessing and salvation, the joy and rejoicing of our hearts, grant that the Spirit of God and of glory may now by faith rest upon us, to refresh and make glad as with the wine of the kingdom the heart of God and man, in a most holy and blessed communion. O that our souls may evermore drink of that blood in which are sealed and confirmed

unto us the remission of all our sins and eternal life, and in which thou dost also ever impart to us the hope of an incorruptible and eternal inheritance, through the new testament therein contained, bequeathing unto us, as thy future kings and priests, who have been purchased and made over to thee by the same most precious blood, that the song of salvation may now continually burst forth from our lips and fill thy courts with glory and praise for this thine unspeakable gift; for most honourable before thee, O Father, are the death and resurrection of thy Holy One, for thereby hast thou broken all our bonds and our chains. So let us now, most merciful Father, shew forth his death and his resurrection, until all weakness and sickness be put away from us, and the last enemy, death itself, may be destroyed by the revelation of Jesus Christ, that they who sleep in their graves and dwell in the dust may speedily be awakened by the voice of the Son of

Man, and come forth and sing the song of victory and triumph over hell and the grave; and that we who are alive and remain may be changed by thy wonderful act of transubstantiation, whereby thou wilt cause the corruptible to assume the incorruptible form, and mortal to put on the immortal; so that we may appear in the image of his glorified humanity, and thus behold and partake of the reward of the righteous and godly in that day when thou wilt come forth from thy place to judge in the earth and to punish the inhabitants thereof for their iniquity and ungodliness.

O most faithful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, seeing then that thou hast given us such things to look for, stir thou up within us a diligent spirit, that we may wait upon thee, and that the desire of our souls may be to thy name and to the remembrance of thee, that we may live in all holy conversation and godliness, and be found of him

at his appearing in peace without spot and blameless,—so that the gates of thine eternal kingdom may be opened to us, and that we may enter therein and abide with thee and thy Son and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, without fear of change or death, throughout all ages, world without end.

Response. Amen.

VII.—FOR THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

O HOLY, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, thou King of nations, who hast commanded us for our good to fear and to glorify thy great and glorious name, for there is none like unto thee, who art the object of our reverence, adoration, and praise; thou author of our being and preserver of our lives; thou sittest supreme on thy throne, high and lifted up in the heaven of thy glory, judging and governing all in righteousness and truth. Thou art glorious in thy holiness; to thee all the hosts of heaven bow, and veil their faces

before thine excellent majesty in lowly obeisance and in devout and solemn reverence. Thou art fearful in thy praises, calling them forth from thy people in times of thy judgment, when in thy enduring mercy thou overwhelmest thine enemies with shame, and bringest all to nought who strive and fight against thy heritage and against thy purpose therein. Thou inhabitest the high praises of thy people, and by them thou movest the pillars of thy house, and causest the foundations of the wicked to quake with fear and trembling. O thou Creator of all things visible and invisible, who alone workest wonders, controlling all according to thy word, and making even Satan and his angels to believe and tremble at the power of thy name, casting them down as lightning from the heavens; who shall contemn thee, O Lord, and harden himself in pride without fear, and think to pass unpunished? Surely none, O God. According to thy fear, so

is thy wrath; according as thou hast taught us to fear thy punishment, so wilt thou punish in thy wrath those who forsake thee. Thy fear is clean, and it maketh clean the heart that receiveth it, that we may perfect holiness therein, and submit ourselves to one another as members of the same body, working out our salvation, and making our calling and election sure in this thy wholesome and filial fear—in which, like thy love, there is no pain or torment to afflict or distract the soul.

O thou fear of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, and of all that noble army and cloud of witnesses who served thee in their day and generation, grant that we may follow their good examples, and serve thee now with reverence and godly fear, that hereafter we may escape thy judgments, and live for ever in thy presence. O God, deliver us from the fear of all evil spirits, which bring with them torment and distraction. Save us also from the

fear of man, which bringeth a snare, and putteth into bondage those who yield thereto; be thou therefore our trust and our fear, that we may be saved from its weakening and oppressing power. Behold, thou hast numbered the hairs of our head, and takest account of all our smallest affairs, and sufferest not a sparrow to fall without thy providence and permission, that we may know that we are of much more account and value in thy sight than these thy lowest works. Enable us to put away that miserable and tormenting and slavish fear that cometh from beneath, or from the unbelief of our own hearts, which at its utmost malice can only touch the body and do no more; and that we may perfectly do this, make thou us, we beseech thee, partakers of that holy spirit of the fear of the Lord which resteth in its fulness on the man Christ Jesus, that we may be at peace, and abide in the firmness and boldness of the faith, and by the ready operation

of this grace receive a quick and lively understanding and discernment in all things in which we may be engaged.

O thou most blessed God, whose eye is ever on them that fear thee and that keep thy commandments, to shew to them thy pity and mercy, thy salvation, and good pleasure in acquainting them with the secret revelation of thy mind in Christ; that both small and great might praise thee through him for thy faithfulness and thy truth; grant, O thou Father of an infinite majesty, that we worshipping thee in thy fear, thy holy angels may encamp around and defend us in all our paths from the besetting perils and dangers of men and devils, and from the changes and chances of this mortal estate. Behold, thou hast taught us that thy fear is a strong confidence, that our minds may be at peace resting upon thee; that it is a fountain of life, to refresh and invigorate our drooping spirits; that it is the instruction of wisdom to depart

from evil and from the snares of death. Grant, therefore, O most merciful Father, that we, like thy people of old, may walk therein, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and so be true and faithful witnesses for thee in this present evil age.

O thou, who art our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, grant that our fear towards thee may not be taught by the precepts and traditions of men, but only by thine own Spirit which proceedeth from thee; we pray thee that He may take of thy things, O Christ, and shew them to our souls, that we be not high-minded, or ignorant of thy mysteries, and so perish for lack of knowledge and understanding. Let Him teach us effectually thy good fear, O Lord, that we may abide therein and be led into life, escape the punishment of evil, and finally be received of thee with the voice of joy and welcome, saying—"Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord." Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus,

we beseech thee. Hear thou the cry of thy church, and the intercession of thy Spirit therein, and come and take thy great power and reign. Even so, Amen.

Let thy grace, O Lord Jesus, be with us all who love thee in sincerity and truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end.

Response. Amen.

A Litany for a Family.



GOD the Father of heaven, have mercy upon us, a family of thy people; keep thou and defend us by thine almighty power.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, who hast power over all in heaven and earth, save and deliver us from the power of the devil, the world, and the flesh.

O God the Holy Ghost, thou Lord and Giver of Life, proceeding from the Father and the Son, have mercy upon us; revive, strengthen, and comfort us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, revealed unto us in the man Christ Jesus, the fulness of the Godhead bodily, shew thy mercy upon us.

Response. And grant us thy salvation.

Remember not against us, Lord, our offences; call not to mind the offences of our forefathers; but spare us, good Lord, thou God of all the families of the earth,—heal all our backslidings, love thou us freely, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

R. Spare us, good Lord.

From all stings and pangs of conscience, from impatience and fretfulness, from agony and horror, and from all sicknesses and sorrows, which may by any means distract or withdraw our minds from thee;

R. Good Lord deliver us.

From all the powers of darkness, from all illusions and assaults of the wrathful enemy, from his ghostly devices, snares, and disturbances during the silent watches of this night;

R. Good Lord deliver us.

From all danger and distress, from all

terrors and torments, from all pains and punishments, both of body and soul;

R. Good Lord deliver us.

From the noisome pestilence that walketh in darkness, from the calamity of destructive fire, and from the dread and violence of wicked men;

R. Good Lord deliver us.

By thy manifold and great mercies, by the manifold and great mercies of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, by his incarnation and humiliation, by his agony and bloody sweat, by his strong crying and tears, by his bitter cross and passion, by his worship, preaching, and descent in the Holy Ghost to the lower parts of the earth, by his resurrection from the dead and ascension into glory, by his continual intercession and mediation before thy throne, and by his authority over all in heaven and earth;

R. Good Lord deliver us.

By the descent and endowment of the Holy Ghost, by his empowering, en-

lightening, and reviving, by his enduring joys and consolations, by his taking of the things of Christ and shewing them to our souls;

R. Good Lord deliver us.

We, a sinful family, do beseech of thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it would please thee to be our defender and keeper, giving us the victory over all our enemies, the devil, the world, and the flesh; and that it would please thee to remember us with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people, and to visit us with thy salvation.

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee to be merciful unto us, and to forgive all our unrighteousness and iniquities which at any time of our life we have committed against thee;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee not to lay to

our charge what in the lust of the flesh, or in the lust of the eye, or in the pride of life, we have at any time of our lives committed against thee;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee not to lay to our charge what in the fierceness of our wrath, or in vain and idle words, we have committed against thee to the quenching and grieving of thy Holy Spirit;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee to put thy laws into our minds, and to write them upon our hearts, that we with thy whole church may be as a living epistle, written by thine hand, to be read and known of all men;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee to make us partakers of all thy mercies and promises made to mankind through Jesus Christ our Lord;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee speedily to accomplish the number of thine elect; to awaken them that sleep in Jesus, and to bring them with him; to change the living who remain, and look to thee for his appearing; and to grant us a part in the blessed resurrection of life and glory;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it would please thee to manifest the sons of God in the enjoyment of glory and blessedness unspeakable; that they may shine forth as the sun in thy heavenly kingdom; and to deliver thy whole creation from the bondage of corruption under which it now groaneth, awaiting their appearing;

R. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

We beseech thee, O Lord Jesus, to come quickly, and appear in thy glory, and in the glory of thy Father, and in

the glory of thy holy angels: come thou, and sit upon the throne of thy glory; rule thou the nations upon earth, judging and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

R. Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O God most high, possessor of heaven and earth, make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;

R. Grant us thy peace.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us, and to make clean our hearts within us;

R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

O Lord, save thy servants;

R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

O God the Holy Ghost, who with the Father and the Son art worshipped and glorified; anoint, seal, and conform us

to the image of the man Christ Jesus; and preserve us from all present and coming dangers, distresses, and tribulations:

R. Have mercy upon us, and make thy chosen people joyful.

Endue us, O God, with righteousness;

R. And bless thine inheritance.

O Christ, hear us.

R. Accept our supplications.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

R. Lord, have mercy upon us.

O most merciful Father, grant to us these and all our petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Meditation on entering the Church of God.

KEEP THY foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God, for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore, let thy words be few.—*Ecclesiastes* v. 1, 2.

Prayer before the commencement of Holy Worship.

O GOD, who hast commanded us to keep our feet in entering the place where thine honour dwelleth, and to draw near to thee with reverence and godly fear;

grant that no irreverent manner or lightness, no rashness or haste, may now appear in me to grieve and vex thy Holy Spirit, or to disturb the minds of thy devout worshippers. Keep me from all wandering thoughts and vain desires, that I add not iniquity thereby to thy holy things, and that thus behaving myself aright in the Church of God, thy free Spirit may now enable me to serve thee, decently and in due order in all things, and to fill with the life of sincerity every form of truth, both in fervent prayer and in thy most worthy praise; that, finally, thy blessing may descend and rest upon me, and being enriched thereby, I may depart in peace, to the glory of thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Form of Prayer on leaving the Church.

O GOD, I thank thee through Jesus Christ thy dear Son for this present gracious opportunity which thou hast granted unto me, of offering worship to thy great and adorable name, in behalf of thy beloved Church scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth; and also for the peace and comfort which thou hast given me therein, protecting us from all outward and inward enemies. Let thy blessing, which thy servant in thy name hath now pronounced upon this congregation, indeed rest upon me, that departing hence, I may continue in thy free grace, O thou Saviour of the world, and abide in thine unchangeable love, O thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy most

blessed communion, O thou Eternal Spirit, who with the Father and Son art worshipped and glorified as the Lord and Giver of life; that thus setting thee, O God, before me at all times, my heart may be gladdened, and my spirit be made to rejoice within me, to thy praise and honour, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Response. Amen.

E. B.

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